

Matthews Veterans Advisory Committee

April 4th, 2018

Minutes

Chairperson Fisk Outwater called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm at Matthews Town Hall with a quorum present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by a moment of reflection by Tom Cannon read from the Book of Common Prayer.

Committee Members present: Fisk Outwater, Tom Cannon, Charleen Thompson, Angelo Renguso, Janet Perkins, Joe Bochicchio , Michael Green, Phil Mowry and Vickie Green

Guests Welcomed: Chris Melton (Town Commissioner) Wes Benter, Daniella Barenburg (Matthews Residents) James Munoz (Potential Board Member)

Special Guest Speaker: Commissioner Chris Melton

Minutes of March 7, 2018: Minutes were approved as transmitted

Old Business:

1: Subcommittee 1. Awareness: Joe Bochicchio spoke for the committee- posters and handouts ready for events. Breakfast planning is ongoing- no registration needed. For Korean War/Vietnam War Exhibit all must register to have an exhibit. Members are to take posters for events to hang around Town. Let Fisk know where we are placing them.

2: Subcommittee 2. Resources and Collaboration: Phil Mowry spoke on behalf of committee. They have developed a piece titled "21 Strengths Arising From Military Experience" to educate employers as to why they should look to hire veterans. Michael Vento spoke about a policy they have also developed for the ToM to consider for review titled "Special Hiring Consideration of Veterans and Veterans' Spouses Policy." They gave a rough draft copy for review and are ready to float this to H.R. etc. for feedback. Chris Melton was asked best way to give info to the ToM and he said thru Rad and Becky.

3: Subcommittee 3. Communications: The committee did not meet in March- they did not have any updates- Angelo did mention they completed the revised version of the trifold. They are pricing directional signs and asked if ok to have a sponsor for the signs and have contacts names on banner. Rad will check with town about the policy.

4: Subcommittee 4. Executive: Fisk spoke first and said they will have their annual review with ToM the 1st of May. They had their 1st qtr. review with the town on March 12th 2018 and covered our primary activities. They invited everyone to attend and participate in our activities and addressed our current membership at the review. Tom will be meeting with Bob Becker (a part of Congressman Pittenger's Team) about some possible items for exhibit.

Sign-up sheets were passed around to volunteer to man Korean Vietnam Exhibit. All members need to try and sign up for a time slot. ToM has arranged for Police officers to monitor with us. Deadline for exhibitors to register for event is May 9th. Tom and Fisk are continuing to brief different organizations of our events.

Labor Day Festival events- Parade- The MVAC, along with local Veterans-will be in the parade with no fee and we will have a table in front of the Women's Club also free of charge.

New Business:

1. Quarterly Meeting-next one is in May
2. New Town Policies- (a.) Social Media Policy: This now falls exclusively under control of the ToM. This was done to “protect the brand” and because of the need to roll all committees published information under one umbrella to be more consistent. The immediate result is that the MVAC can no longer have its own Facebook page. Dessi Dufresne will immediately cancel the MVAC Facebook account. Our information will now be on the Town pages handled through SC#3 and administered by Maureen Keith. (b.) Event Endorsement Policy: The Town of Matthews is examining its Event Endorsement Policy that will “give clear direction when the Town receives a request to endorse an event run by an organization that is not the Town of Matthews.” The ToM is still discussing the ramifications of this policy. Chris Melton explained the discussion centers around the definition of endorsement versus sponsorship and the levels of participation associated with those definitions once established and to get a better understanding of where does support end and sponsorship start? The MVAC will delay its Proposal for ToM support for the Matthews American Legion Post 235 Memorial Stumptown Park Ceremony until the Tom Event Endorsement Policy is approved.
- 3) Honor Flight (Defer to next Honor Flight in October) the deadline was April 1st for last one. MVAC Chair will contact Honor Flight Executive Director for more information. Consideration of a proposal to the ToM to take this on as a commitment to sponsor a local Veteran will be made an agenda item in May MVAC meeting.

3. Ideas for how the MVAC can show its appreciation to supporters were deferred to a later meeting.
4. **Treasurer's Report: In Jack's absence-** We had no actual treasurer's report but Tom did present an estimate of what we have given to the Town. The Chair, Vice Chair and Staff Liaison met with Lori and gave her a copy to put in Hazen's hands for review.
5. **Chairperson /Vice Chairperson Comments: Fisk gave a summary of where we are at the present time.** (See attached)
6. **Comments-Town Council Liaison:** Rad did not have any comments at this meeting.
7. **Open Comments:** We discussed application and voted in our new member James Munoz.
Janet told us about a Veterans Comedy Show that was coming April 18th to support Stop Soldier Suicide.

Open Time for Public Comments: Chris Melton thanked us for inviting him. He said it was refreshing to see the energy in this group. These committees help give Matthews that small town feel so many residents enjoy. He would encourage us to keep reaching out to the non-profit organizations in Matthews for advocacy.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Submitted by:

Charleen Thompson, Secretary

